

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the following remarks. Claims 1-24 are currently pending in this application, of which claims 1 and 14 are independent. In the Office Action dated March 23, 2007, the Examiner rejected claims 1-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

In response, Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 14. Dependent claims 4, 7, 9, 11-13, 17, 20, 22, and 24 have been amended to maintain consistency with the amended independent claims. No new subject matter has been added. Support for the amendments may be found, for example, at page 23, paragraph 91, and at page 24, paragraph 92. Applicants submit that amended claims 1 and 14 and their respective dependent claims 2-13 and 15-24 overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Specifically, amended claims 1 and 14 recite a user interface or a method for guiding a user through a task requiring user interaction in a plurality of ordered steps including, among other things, "displaying an active roadmap of two or more of the ordered steps in a first pane," and "indicating a selected one of the two or more ordered steps, wherein at least one step not immediately following the selected step in the ordered steps is selectable by a user." This process allows the user to proceed or skip directly to another step not immediately following the selected step in the active roadmap. (See Applicants' disclosure, at page 23, paragraph 91.) This is advantageous because "[a]s users become more proficient with the system, the present disclosure contemplates that users may reduce the level of guidance provided by the

interface. Thus, user interfaces designed according to the teachings of the disclosure provide simple, low-level guidance to new users, [while] allowing the user to tailor the system as his experience increases." (See Applicants' disclosure, at page 10, paragraph 49.)

Applicants submit that *Messinger* fails to anticipate the invention of amended claims 1 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) at least because it fails to show or suggest that "at least one step not immediately following the selected step in the ordered steps is selectable by a user." Specifically, Applicants submit that *Messinger* refers to a task list in which graphic indications are used to "highlight -- and explain where and what the GUI requires -- each step of the task in sequence." (See Col, 10, lines 19-21.) In this way, *Messinger* accomplishes its goal of training a user to operate a software application by performing tasks according to appropriate sequences. (See Abstract.) *Messinger's* sequential training fails to show or suggest allowing a user to break out of the sequence of steps by selecting at least one step not immediately following the selected step.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that at least because *Messinger* fails to show or suggest each and every feature of amended independent claims 1 and 14, *Messinger* does not anticipate amended claims 1 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Applicants also submit that dependent claims 2-13 and 15-24 depend from independent claims 1 and 14, respectively, and are, therefore, also not anticipated by *Messinger* under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that this claimed invention, as amended, is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of the prior art references cited against this application. Applicants therefore request the Examiner's reconsideration and reexamination of the application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

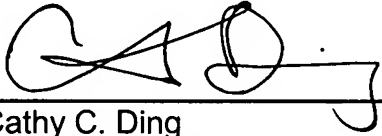
Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____


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